



# LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

## 59<sup>TH</sup> Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building \* P.O. Box 201711 \* Helena, MT 59620-1711 \* (406) 444-2986 \* FAX (406) 444-3036

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DATE: March 10, 2006  
TO: Agency Directors  
FROM: Legislative Finance Committee  
RE: State Strategic Information Technology Plan

The Montana Information Technology Act, codified in Title 2, Chapter 17, Part 5 of Montana Code Annotated, requires development of a state strategic information technology plan and corresponding agency information technology plans. Montana law also specifies that an appropriately approved agency information technology plan must address new information technology investments as a prerequisite for inclusion in the Governor's budget to the legislature. The statutory deadline for updating the state plan is approaching, as is the June 30 deadline for approval of agency plans.

The committee is concerned after hearing that several agencies still do not have approved plans corresponding to the April 1, 2004, update of the state plan. In response to this concern, the committee is developing recommendations for the 2007 Legislature that would likely include that joint appropriations subcommittees verify that information technology budget requests are supported by up-to-date and approved agency plans prior to being considered for funding. It would be the intent of the committee recommendation that funding should not be provided if an agency has not planned for its information technology operations and documented the planning in an appropriately approved plan. The recommendation would apply to new information technology expenditures and present law expenditures of an agency.

As such, all agencies are encouraged to work with the Department of Administration to obtain approval of agency information technology plans by the June 30 statutory date.

Sincerely,

Senator John Cobb  
Chairman Legislative Finance Committee

C: Clayton Schenck, LFA  
Dick Clark, CIO

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